## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Imidazole compounds represented by general formula (I):

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
O & O & R^3 \\
 & N & R^2 \\
 & R^4 & R^2
\end{array}$$
(I)

5 wherein each symbol is as defined in the specification, and salts thereof, and a pharmaceutical composition containing same are provided. These compounds are useful in treating the diseases curable based on a hypoglycemic action, and the diseases curable based on a cGMP-PDE inhibitory action, a smooth muscle relaxing action, a bronchodilating action, a vasodilating action, a smooth muscle cell inhibitory action and an allergy inhibitory action.